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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6655

BILL NUMBER: HB 1245

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Release of Pre-Adoptive Sibling Information.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Herrell

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill repeals and relocates language concerning requests for information about pre-adoptive siblings. The bill allows requests for and requires, under certain circumstances, release of information concerning pre-adoptive siblings for any adoption. (Current law allows requests for and requires, under certain circumstances, release of information only for adoptions that are filed after December 31, 1993.)

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires the State Registrar, operated under the State Department of Health, to accept information requests of pre-adoptive siblings. The bill establishes protocol for releasing information to pre-adoptive siblings.

Under the bill, pre-adoptive siblings over the age of 21 or the adoptive parents of a sibling under the age of 21 are allowed to state an interest in reunification with their pre-adoptive sibling. The State Registrar is allowed to release information provided that both parties agree to releasing contact information. Currently, a pre-adoptive sibling can only request contact information for another pre-adoptive sibling if the adoption occurred after December 31, 1993. The legislation will allow pre-adoptive siblings that were adopted before December 31, 1993, to request contact information for their other pre-adoptive sibling(s). It is indeterminable how many individuals will become eligible under this bill.

This bill will increase the workload of the State Registrar to contact and provide contact information to pre-adoptive siblings provided that both siblings agree to the information sharing. Additionally, the State Registrar is allowed to request and receive information regarding pre-adoptive sibling contact information

from the State Division of Vital Records and Department of Child Services. Workload for the State Division of Vital Records and the Department of Child Services will also increase in order to provide necessary information to the State Registrar. Actual increases in workload are indeterminable, but will depend on the number of pre-adoptive siblings in the state and the decision of pre-adoptive siblings to make information available to their pre-adoptive sibling(s). [It is not currently known how many pre-adoptive siblings reside in the state of Indiana.]

Explanation of State Revenues: The bill allows the Department of Child Services and the State Department of Health to charge a fee for expenses incurred for researching and providing pre-adoptive sibling contact information. It is not known what fees might be charged to individuals requesting information regarding an adoptee, but revenue collected can be utilized to defray the costs of researching requested contact information.

Background Information: The State Department of Health reports that they currently charge a \$20 fee for adoption history information as found under IC 31-19-2-8.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill requires the County Office of Family and Children to provide pre-adoptive sibling contact information to the State Registrar. Additionally, local courts may also receive requests to release contact information regarding pre-adoptive siblings to state and local entities in order to locate adoptees. This will increase the workload of the County Office of Family and Children and local courts to provide the required information. The increase in workload will depend on the number of pre-adoptive siblings in the state and the decision of pre-adoptive siblings to make information available to their pre-adoptive sibling(s).

Explanation of Local Revenues: The legislation allows courts and the County Office of Family and Children to charge a fee for expenses incurred for researching and providing adoptive sibling contact information. It is not known what fees might be charged to individuals requesting information regarding an adoptee, but revenue collected can be utilized to defray the costs of researching requested contact information.

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Department of Health, Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected: Local courts, County Office of Family and Children.

Information Sources: Scott Zarazee, Indiana State Department of Health; Ann Houseworth, Department of Child Services.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.